



Inside Illinois DNR

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The Illinois Department of Natural Resources offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. Click here to see what jobs openings are available.

A Message from Director Wayne Rosenthal



Welcome to the fall hunting season in Illinois.

While squirrel season has been open for more than a month, things really kick into gear for hunters during this month of September.

Dove season is underway, and waterfowl hunters get an early shot with early Canada goose and teal seasons in September. Archery deer season opens October 1, and then the youth deer hunt Columbus Day weekend, and regular waterfowl and firearm deer seasons, start filling up the autumn hunting calendar.

It is a great time of year for those of us who love hunting, and Illinois has a wonderful hunting heritage.

All of us at the Department of Natural Resources take pride in helping to manage public hunting programs that appeal to outdoor recreation enthusiasts in all parts of the state. We take pride in our ongoing efforts to expand public hunting areas and public access. We make it convenient for hunters to participate through DNR Direct, with licenses and permit applications available online, as well as from hundreds of point-of-sale agents around the state.

If you're a hunter or plan to hunt in Illinois this fall, with licenses, permits and stamps in hand, take a few minutes to update yourself on hunting regulations that apply for this year's seasons.

And remember to put hunting safety at the top of your to-do list before you head to the field.

Novice hunters probably have their hunter safety education course fresh on their minds. We experienced hunters – and I've been hunting for almost my entire life – can benefit by taking time to review our safety protocols for the season. You can find plenty of good information – from our annual Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations to hunting safety reminders – on the Illinois DNR website at www.dnr.illinois.gov.

Thanks for your support of hunting in Illinois. Enjoy the seasons ahead and everything autumn has to offer in Illinois.

DNR in the news

Alligator Gar

Officer S. Vasicek Recognized

Asian Carp Reduction Efforts

Wildlife Violations

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Clinton, IL
217-935-6860

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



Open Counties for 2015-16 Late-Winter and Special CWD Deer Hunting Seasons

Late-Winter Antlerless-only Deer Hunting Season will be open in 27 counties, while the state's Special CWD Deer Hunting Season will be open in 14 counties for 2015-16. The Late-Winter season provides additional hunting opportunities in counties with surplus deer, while the Special CWD season

allows hunters to help combat the spread of chronic wasting disease in Illinois' white-tailed deer herd. (Photo; Russ Adams) [For more information click here](#)



Youth Firearm Deer Hunt is October 10-12

Hunters are reminded of the blaze orange requirement during the youth hunt. The 2015 Illinois Youth Firearm Deer Hunt is Oct. 10-12 for those hunters with a valid Youth Deer Permit who have not reached their 16th birthday by the first day of the hunt. Youth Deer Permits are available over-the-counter at license vendors throughout the state. Hunters may purchase only one permit (either-sex) for one of the open counties. [For more information click here](#)



2015–16 Waterfowl Season Dates

The proposed waterfowl season dates and bag limits for the 2015–16 seasons have been submitted. The recommendations include 60-day duck seasons in each of the state's four waterfowl hunting zones, along with Canada goose hunting seasons of 90 days in the North and Central zones, a 79-day Canada goose season in the South Central Zone, and a 67-day Canada goose season in the South Zone. Goose season lengths are shorter in the South Central and South

zones to coincide with duck season dates and to match hunter preferences.

[For more information click here](#)



Changes to Regulations Regarding Outfitting

IDNR is reminding individuals and organizations which in the past have held commercial waterfowl permits in Illinois of new regulations regarding waterfowl hunting. A new Illinois law requires waterfowl hunting outfitters to apply for a permit from the IDNR, and no longer requires waterfowl clubs or organizations to purchase a permit from the IDNR if they do not

provide outfitting services, accept paying hunters, or are otherwise closed to the public, or provide only waterfowl blinds or pits. [For more information click here](#)

NEW! Check out these amazing time-lapse videos of Illinois' [Great State Parks](#)



Time to Celebrate!

Get ready to celebrate “turning screen time into green time” with the 2015 Illinois Outdoors **Hall of Fame class** and the Illinois Conservation Foundation at the ICF Gala!

Once again, more than 250 supporters will gather at the Hilton Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale on September 24th to raise funds for the ICF’s youth programs.

The event includes a silent auction and other fun activities.

Sponsorships are still available.

[Click here](#) to learn more, purchase your tickets or to make a gift in honor of one of our honorees!

www.ilcf.org.



Highlights



Recreational Access Program Receives Federal Grant to Boost Recreational Access to Private Lands

IDNR has received a \$540,000 federal grant to increase wildlife habitat and public access for recreational opportunities on private lands. The funding for the Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP) is through the USDA Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, which was established to provide additional places for recreation for the public while improving wildlife habitat on those properties. “This federal grant will be used to expand our successful IRAP initiative to open up private lands for public use in metropolitan areas, and to create a mentor program for new and inexperienced hunters,” said IDNR Director Wayne Rosenthal. [For more information click here](#)

Volunteers Honored by IDNR at Illinois State Fair Ceremony



“Volunteers provide so many valuable and important services to the people of Illinois through their work with our staff at the IDNR – from safety education programs, to hands-on activities and instruction for kids, to improving facilities at our state parks,” IDNR Director Wayne Rosenthal said. “The Outstanding Volunteers of the Year ceremony is our chance to say ‘thank you’ to these great volunteers”. [For more information click here](#)

Biologists Asking for Help in Tracking Fatal Deer Disease



Landowners, hunters, and concerned citizens are asked to be on the lookout for dead or dying deer in the coming weeks, and to report suspected cases of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) to their local IDNR field office, or to the Wildlife Disease and Invasive Species Program (WDIS). IDNR is especially interested in sick or recently dead animals as staff may be able to collect tissue samples in order to confirm the presence of the EHD virus. [For more information click here.](#)

[For more check out our monthly calendar of events!](#)

Visit the IDNR on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter!](#)